AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the

application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (currently amended): A device ~~(1)~~ for controlling equipment management data ~~(5)~~ in a

communications network comprising a network management system capable of managing ~~the~~

said equipment management data using previously loaded management data modules, associated

with ~~the~~ said equipment management data and stored in a memory ~~(9)~~, ~~characterised in that it~~said

device comprising ~~comprises~~ control means ~~(10) arranged,~~which when there is a request by ~~the~~

said network management system to take over at least one new item of equipment management

data ~~(5)~~ in ~~the~~ said communications network, ~~to~~ extracts from ~~the~~ said memory ~~(9)~~ the

management data module associated with ~~each~~ said at least one new item of equipment, and then

loads into ~~the~~ said network management system each new management data module extracted,

dynamically, so that the management by ~~the~~ said network management system of ~~the other items~~

~~of~~ said equipment management data ~~(5)~~ in ~~the~~ said communications network is not interrupted.

2.   (currently amended): A device according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that the~~ wherein

said control means ~~(10) are arranged~~which controls, whenever a new management data module is

loaded, associated with a new version of ~~an item of~~ equipment ~~(5)~~ which has not yet been

integrated in ~~the~~ said communications network ~~whilst~~ while an ~~"old"~~old management data

module associated with a prior version of ~~this~~ the equipment ~~(5)~~ is still loaded and ~~the~~ said prior

version of the equipment is still integrated in ~~the~~ said communications network, i) to put ~~the~~ said

new management data module loaded on standby so as to continue the management of ~~the~~ said

old prior version of the equipment from the said old management data moduleold associated

loaded module, until the said new version of the equipment (5) is integrated, and then ii), when

data indicating the an integration of the said new version of the equipment are received, to put

the said new management data module loaded into service so as to provide the management of

the said new version of the equipment (5) from this said new management data module.

3.   (currently amended): A device according to Claim 2, characterised in that thewherein

said putting on standby consists firstly of allowing the management of the said new version of

the equipment (5) from the said new management data module, without taking account of any

error messages related to its non-integration in the said communications network, and secondly

to send a message to the said old management data module a message indicating to it that a

change of version is under way and that said old management data moduleit must not take

account of at least some of the error messages related to the a conjoint management of the old

and new versions of the equipment.

4.   (currently amended): A device according to Claim 2, characterised in that thewherein

said control means (10) are arrangedwhich, in the a case of synchronisation synchronization

between the said new version of the equipment version (5) and the said new management data

module, so as to delete the deletes said old management data module.

5.   (currently amended): A device according to Claim 1, characterised in that the wherein

said control means (10) are arranged to loads management data modules according to at least a

first mode in which the said management data modules are loaded independently of any

dependencies between said management data modules ~~them~~ and a second mode in which, in

loading ~~the~~ said management data modules, account is taken of ~~any~~ the dependencies between

them.

6.   (currently amended): A device according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~wherein each

management data module consists of at least one descriptor.

7.   (currently amended): A device according to Claim 6, ~~characterised in that each~~wherein

the at least one descriptor consists of at least one program code file and at least one configuration

file.

8.   (currently amended): A device according to Claim 7, ~~characterised in that one of the said~~

wherein said at least one program code files of ~~a~~ said at least one descriptor comprises first data

designating a type to which an item of network equipment belongs, and another of ~~the~~ said

program code files of ~~the~~ said at least one descriptor comprises second data designating a

management information base definition associated with ~~the~~ said equipment management data~~(5)~~

and accessible to ~~the~~ said network management system.

9.   (currently amended): A device according to Claim 7, ~~characterised in that the~~wherein

said program codes are in Java language.

10.   (currently amended): A management device according to claim 9, in which said

management device is coupled to management means and wherein management server ~~(2)~~ in a

communications network, ~~comprising~~ comprises said management means ~~(3) able to~~which

manage~~s~~ network equipment ~~(5)~~using loaded management data modules, associated with ~~the~~

said network equipment ~~(5)~~and stored in a memory ~~(9), characterised in that it comprises a~~

~~management device (1) according to one of the preceding claims, coupled to the said~~

~~management means.~~

11.   (currently amended): A method of controlling equipment management data ~~(5)~~in a

communications network, in which ~~the said~~network equipment is managed using loaded

management data modules, associated with ~~the~~said network equipment ~~(5), characterised in~~

~~that~~wherein, in the case of a request to take over at least one new item of equipment ~~(5)~~in ~~the~~

said communications network, ~~each~~new management data module associated with ~~a~~said at least

one new item of equipment ~~(5)~~is loaded dynamically so that ~~the~~management of ~~the~~other

network equipment ~~(5)~~in ~~the~~said communications network is not interrupted.

12.   (currently amended): A method according to Claim 11, ~~characterised in that~~wherein, in

the case of the loading of ~~a~~said new management data module associated with ~~a new version of~~

~~an~~said at least one new item of equipment ~~(5)~~not yet integrated in ~~the~~said communication

network ~~whilst~~while an ~~"old"~~old management data module associated with a prior version of

~~this~~the equipment ~~(5)~~is still loaded and ~~the~~said prior version of the equipment is still integrated

in ~~the~~said communications network, i) ~~the~~said new management data module ~~loaded~~loading is

put on standby so as to continue the management of ~~the~~said ~~old~~prior version of the equipment

~~(5)~~using ~~the~~said ~~associated~~old management data module~~loaded~~, until ~~the~~said at least one new

~~version~~item of ~~the~~equipment ~~(5)~~is integrated, and then ii), on receiving data signalling the

integration of ~~the~~ said at least one new ~~version~~item of equipment, ~~the~~ said new management data

module loaded is brought into service so as to provide the management of ~~the~~ said at least one

new ~~version~~ item of equipment ~~(5)~~ using ~~this~~ said new management data module.

13.   (currently amended): A method according to Claim 12, ~~characterised in that the~~wherein

said putting on standby ~~consists~~ comprises firstly of allowing the management of ~~the~~ said at least

one new ~~version~~item of ~~the~~ equipment ~~(5)~~ using ~~the~~ said associated new management data

module without taking account of ~~any~~ error messages related to ~~its~~ non-integration in ~~the~~ said

communications network, and secondly of sending a message to ~~the~~ said old management data

module ~~a message~~ signalling ~~to it that~~ a change of version is under way and that said old

management data module~~it~~ must not take account of at least some of the error messages related

to ~~the~~ a conjoint management of ~~the~~ said ~~old~~ prior version of the equipment and said at least one

new ~~versions~~item of equipment.

14.   (currently amended): A method according to Claim 12, ~~characterised in that~~wherein, in

the case of ~~synchronisation~~ synchronization between ~~the~~ said at least one new item of equipment

~~version (5)~~ and ~~the~~ said new management data module, ~~the~~ said old management data module is

deleted.

15.   (currently amended): A method according to Claim 11, ~~characterised in that the~~wherein

management data modules are loaded independently of ~~any~~ dependencies thereof or taking

account of ~~any~~ said dependencies thereof.

16.   (currently amended): A method according to Claim 12, ~~characterised in that each~~wherein said management data module ~~consists~~ comprises of at least one descriptor.

17.   (currently amended): A method according to Claim 16, ~~characterised in that each~~wherein said at least one descriptor ~~consists~~ comprises of at least one program code file and at least one configuration file.

18.   (currently amended): A method according to Claim 17, ~~characterised in that~~wherein one of ~~the~~ said program code files of ~~the~~ said at least one descriptor comprises first data designating a type to which an item of equipment in the network belongs, and another of ~~the~~ said program code files of ~~the~~ said at least one descriptor comprises second data designating a management information base definition associated with ~~the~~ said item of equipment ~~(5)~~ and is accessible.

19.   (currently amended): A method according to Claim ~~19~~18, ~~characterised in that~~ ~~the~~wherein said program codes are in Java language.

20.   (currently amended): A method according to claim 19, in which ~~Use of the method,~~ ~~control device (1) and~~ a management server comprises said device; and management means manages ~~(2) according to one of the preceding claims in the~~ network technologies. ~~which are to be managed.~~

21.   (currently amended): ~~Use~~ A method according to Claim 20, ~~characterised in that the~~ wherein said network technologies are chosen from a group comprising: ~~the~~

transmission networks comprising ~~, in particular of the~~ WDM, SONET and SDH type~~;~~

data networks~~,~~ comprising ~~in particular of the~~ Internet-IP and ATM type~~;~~ and

voice networks comprising ~~, in particular of the~~ conventional, mobile and NGN type.